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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Warnemunde Harbor: Shipbuilding
and Naval Activities

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1. Shipbuilding activities at the Warnowwerft Warnemunde (VWB VWV).

a. S.S. RUS.

- (1) The management of the Warnowwerft announced no change in the anticipated completion date of 1 October 1951. But while the vessel was expected to be ready for sea on that date many of the interior fittings were not expected to be completed by then. Electric connections to the generators were not completely laid by 1 September, and there was a crippling shortage of copper wire in the shipyard. This shortage was so acute that special trucks were dispatched from the yard to the Elbe-Werft Holzenburg and the Volkswerft Ernst Thälmann, Brandenburg/Havel, with a view to getting any pieces of copper wire that these shipyards could possibly spare. The response to these efforts to obtain more wire was very poor. A further material shortage made itself felt in light metal such as aluminum required for cabin partitions.

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- (2) It was not believed that a degaussing girdle would be fitted to this vessel in Warnemunde. The wires and cables originally earmarked for this purpose were sent away from the yard. It was rumored that these parts were loaded onto the S.S. AUXKLIS at the end of July 1951. The former German degaussing girdle switchboard was, however, overhauled and tested and fitted back into this ship in its old position.

b. S.S. SOVETSKI SOYUZ.

Reconstruction work continued on board at an increasing tempo. Some 250 workmen were employed on this vessel. The engine foundations were completed before September 1.

c. S.S. YAKUTIA.

Work continued on board. The management announced that this ship was to be a combined freight and passenger vessel. Work on inner fittings was temporarily suspended while wood and light metal were not available, but her deckwork was being completed. Her bridge superstructure was approximately half finished by 1 September.

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2. Minesweepers.

- a. These vessels were still apparently based on Warnemunde but were absent most of the time at sea. No exercises were carried out during the reporting period in sight of land.
- b. [] all seven minesweepers were away from Warnemunde. 50X1-HUM
Between 11 o'clock a.m. and 12:30 o'clock p.m., gunfire could be heard out at sea, although no vessels were in sight of land. The guns sounded as though they were heavier than normal field artillery. As the minesweepers carry no armament of heavy caliber, this gunfire could not have come from them. The minesweepers returned to Warnemunde about 7 o'clock p.m. and made fast to the East Mole.

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3. Naval motor vessels (MT.... class).

- a. All eleven of these vessels were still based on Warnemunde and continued to carry out cruises in the Breitling area between Warnemunde and Rostock.
- b. [] it was noticed for the first time that the machine guns mounted on vessels MT. 125 and MT. 126 had been removed and replaced by searchlights. These searchlights had a diameter estimated at between 40 and 50 cm.

4. Markgrafenheide area

The wooden barracks here were still occupied by Baltic Fleet sailors and a few enlisted men wearing plain black shoulder-boards. No sign of radar equipment or guns was seen here. [] trucks 50X1-HUM
loaded with food, were seen entering or leaving the area. []

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